

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7290

To establish the Baltic Security and Economic Enhancement Initiative for the purpose of increasing security and economic ties with the Baltic countries and to establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of deepening security cooperation with the Baltic countries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 2022

Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the Baltic Security and Economic Enhancement Initiative for the purpose of increasing security and economic ties with the Baltic countries and to establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of deepening security cooperation with the Baltic countries, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Baltic Defense and
3 Deterrence Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

6 (1) supporting and strengthening the security
7 of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania (referred to in
8 this Act as the “Baltic countries”) is in the national
9 security interests of the United States;

10 (2) continuing to strengthen and update the
11 United States-Baltics security cooperation roadmap
12 is critical to achieving strategic security priorities as
13 the Baltic countries face ongoing belligerence and
14 threats from the Russian Federation, including amid
15 the Russian Federation’s illegal and unprovoked war
16 in Ukraine that began on February 24, 2022;

17 (3) the United States should encourage ad-
18 vancement of the Three Seas Initiative to strengthen
19 transport, energy, and digital infrastructures among
20 Eastern European countries, including the Baltic
21 countries; and

22 (4) improved economic ties between the United
23 States and the Baltic countries, including to counter
24 economic pressure by the People’s Republic of
25 China, offer an opportunity to strengthen the United
26 States-Baltic strategic partnership.

1 **SEC. 3. BALTIC SECURITY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT**
2 **INITIATIVE.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of State shall
4 establish and implement an initiative, to be known as the
5 “Baltic Security and Economic Enhancement Initiative”,
6 for the purpose of increasing security and economic ties
7 with the Baltic countries.

8 (b) **OBJECTIVES.**—The objectives of the Baltic Secu-
9 rity and Economic Enhancement Initiative shall be—

10 (1) to ensure timely delivery of security assist-
11 ance to the Baltic countries, prioritizing assistance
12 to bolster defenses against hybrid warfare and im-
13 prove interoperability with the military forces of the
14 North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

15 (2) to mitigate the impact on the Baltic coun-
16 tries of economic coercion by the Russian Federation
17 and the People’s Republic of China;

18 (3) to identify new opportunities for foreign di-
19 rect investment and United States business ties; and

20 (4) to bolster United States support for the eco-
21 nomic and energy security needs of the Baltic coun-
22 tries, including by convening an annual trade forum
23 with the Baltic countries and the United States
24 International Development Finance Corporation.

25 (c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is
26 authorized to be appropriated for the Department of

1 State, \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
2 2027 to carry out the initiative authorized under sub-
3 section (a).

4 **SEC. 4. BALTIC SECURITY INITIATIVE.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense
6 shall establish and implement an initiative, to be known
7 as the “Baltic Security Initiative”, for the purpose of
8 deepening security cooperation with the Baltic countries.

9 (b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Baltic Secu-
10 rity Initiative shall be—

11 (1) to achieve United States national security
12 objectives, including deterring aggression by the
13 Russian Federation and bolstering the long-term se-
14 curity of North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies;

15 (2) to enhance regional planning and coopera-
16 tion among the Baltic countries, particularly with re-
17 spect to long-term regional capability projects, in-
18 cluding—

19 (A) long range precision fire systems and
20 capabilities;

21 (B) integrated air and missile defense;

22 (C) maritime domain awareness;

23 (D) land forces development, including
24 stockpiling large caliber ammunition;

1 (E) command, control, communications,
2 computers, intelligence, surveillance, and recon-
3 naissance;

4 (F) special operations forces development;
5 and

6 (G) coordination with and security en-
7 hancements for Poland, which is a neighboring
8 North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally; and

9 (3) to improve the Baltic countries' cyber de-
10 fenses and resilience to hybrid threats.

11 (c) STRATEGY.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report
15 setting forth the strategy of the Department of De-
16 fense to achieve the objectives described in sub-
17 section (b).

18 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The strategy required
19 by paragraph (1) shall include a consideration of—

20 (A) security assistance programs for the
21 Baltic countries managed by the Department of
22 State;

23 (B) the ongoing security threats to the
24 North Atlantic Treaty Organization's eastern
25 flank posed by Russian aggression, including as

1 a result of the Russian Federation’s 2022 inva-
2 sion of Ukraine with support from Belarus; and

3 (C) rising tensions with, and presence in
4 the Baltic countries of, the People’s Republic of
5 China, including economic bullying of the Baltic
6 countries by the People’s Republic of China.

7 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated for the Department of De-
9 fense, \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
10 2027 to carry out the initiative authorized under sub-
11 section (a).

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